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ABSTRACT

This report provides information about student mobility within the European Community, and how it is linked to the requirements for entry to higher education. The report is divided into two sections. The first is a brief discussion of the six specific factors studied: (1) entry requirement qualifications and examinations; (2) entry requirement restrictions on admissions; (3) recognition of qualifications and periods of study; (4) language requirements; (5) application and registration procedures for European Community "transfer" students; and (6) immigration and residence formalities. Within each section, tables summarize the text information for each of the countries examined by the report. Four charts summarize selected data. The second section of the report provides detailed information for each of the six factors listed above for each of the reporting countries: Belgium (listing the French and the Flemish communities separately), Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. (CH)

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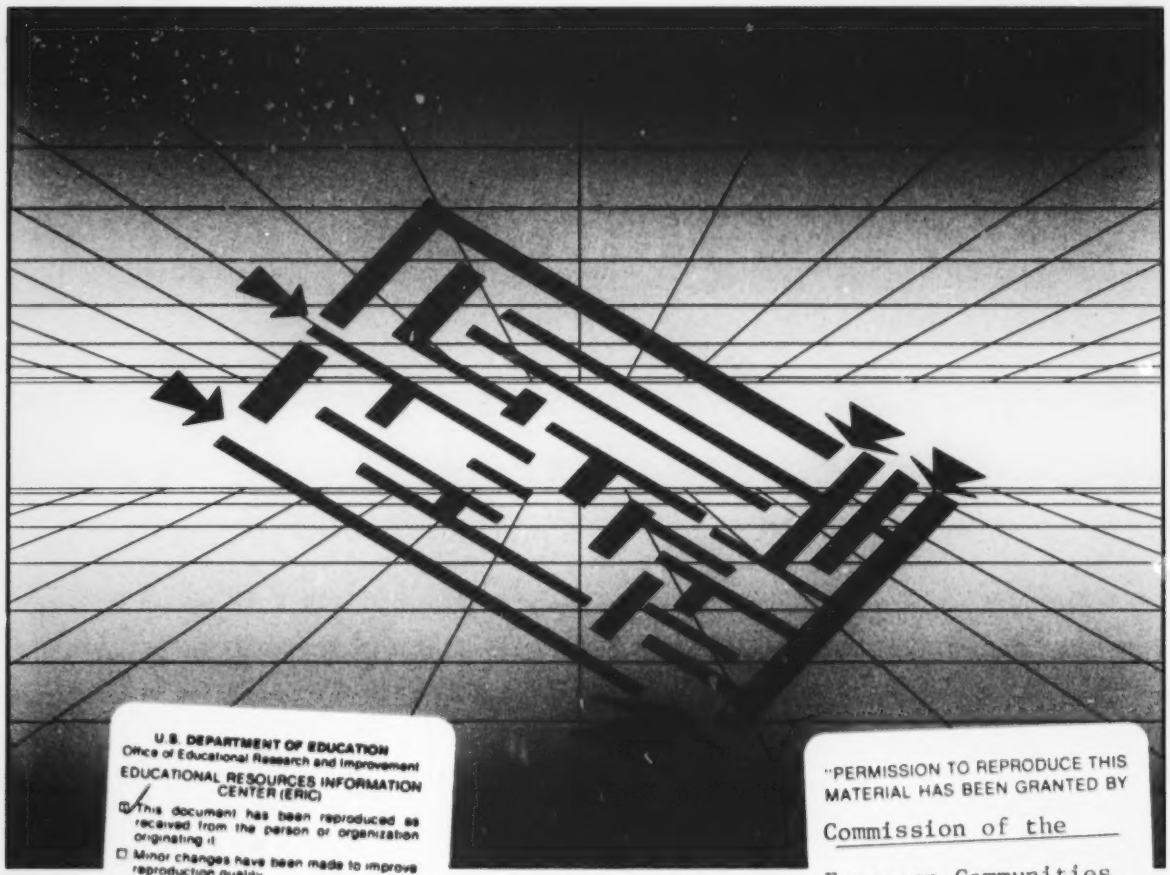
Requirements for Entry to Higher Education in the European Community



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TASK FORCE HUMAN RESOURCES
EDUCATION
TRAINING
YOUTH

Produced for the Task Force:
Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth
of the Commission of the European Communities
by the European Unit of EURYDICE

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FOREWORD

The ever-increasing level of skills essential nowadays to the individual's social, cultural and occupational integration into a constantly changing society has led the Member States of the European Community to promote entry to higher education for an increasing number of young people.

At the same time, the desire to combine this democratisation of education with a high quality training, the economic problems encountered in most Member States and a contraction of the supply side of the labour market have forced them to define, to a greater or lesser degree, entry conditions and requirements restricting admission to higher education.

Student mobility within the European Community is inseparably linked to the requirements for entry to higher education in the various Member States. **What qualifications are required? Are there entrance examinations or competitions? Are there restrictions on numbers admitted, generally or partially (*numerus clausus*)? Are the qualifications obtained, or periods of study undertaken, in another country recognised? What language requirements are there? What enrolment, immigration and residence formalities must be met by European students wishing to study in another Member State?**

The promotion of an open European space for cooperation in higher education has already been discussed at Community level on numerous occasions. This topic, and more especially student mobility, is once more high on the agenda both under the Belgian Presidency and for the work of the Education Committee.

Recognising the need for information on these questions, and more particularly in the context of the Education Committee's work at Community level, the Task Force Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth of the EC Commission has asked EURYDICE to prepare a summary report on the main requirements for admission to higher education in the European Community.

In producing this document, the EURYDICE network hopes to continue to contribute to greater mutual understanding within the European Community in the field of education. The European Unit would like to thank A. and D. Lafontaine and S. Terwagne for their help in coordinating the work on this document and in particular for preparing the résumé.

Luce Pépin
Director of the European Unit

September 1993

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ENTRY TO HIGHER EDUCATION: SYNOPSIS

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

For admission to higher education, students must normally fulfil one or more conditions. They must hold an upper secondary school-leaving certificate or equivalent and/or enter an entrance examination or competition.

The school-leaving qualification is generally the minimum requirement in all Member States, but this is increasingly insufficient to guarantee a candidate freedom of choice of institution and/or course. In addition, some countries require entrance examinations for some or all areas of study, and in some cases personal interviews. For courses in art and sports, candidates generally have to take an aptitude test.

Entry requirements may vary depending on which of the following four categories the student falls into:

- nationals of the Member State;
- EC nationals holding a qualification from the Member State in which they wish to study;
- EC "transfer students" not holding a qualification from the Member State in which they wish to study;
- participants in the exchange programmes (LINGUA, COMETT and ERASMUS in the main), who are subject to the rules of the relevant programme.

In most cases, entry requirements vary only slightly for the different categories of students within any given country. However, for a student who wishes to study in another Member State of the EC, they may vary considerably depending on the country chosen. Thus, to mention only a few examples, a Belgian student wishing to study in Greece or Portugal would not be required to take the entrance examinations demanded of Greek or Portuguese students; however, the same student going to Spain would have to take the general entrance examination. A Spanish student wishing to study in Denmark would have to provide evidence of having passed the entrance examination in Spain, although Danish students do not have to take an entrance examination in their own country.

Entry requirements for Nationals of the Member State

I Secondary school leaving qualification only.
II Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in some cases.
III Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in all cases.

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	•[1]	•	•[2]				•		•	•		
II					•	•		•				•[3]
III				•							•	

Entry Requirements for Students holding the Qualification of the Member State

I. Secondary school leaving qualification (or equivalent) only.
II. Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in some cases.
III. Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in all cases.

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	•[1]	•	•[2]	•			•		•	•		
II					•	•		•				•[3]
III											•	

Entry Requirements for EC "Transfer" Students

I. Secondary school leaving qualification only.
II. Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in some cases.
III. Secondary school leaving qualification and entrance examinations in all cases.

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	•[1]		•[2]	•			•		•		•	
II		•			•	•		•		•		•[3]
III												

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[1] Except for Civil Engineering courses for which there is an entrance examination. In the tables in this part, the information in relation to the French and Flemish Communities in Belgium is virtually identical and is therefore merged.

[2] For entry to the Fachhochschule (non-university institution of technical higher education), a preliminary practical placement is required.

[3] In the UK, admission frequently depends on a combination of school leaving certificate results and an interview. The school leaving certificate indicates which individual subjects have been passed. These may vary in number.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

A large majority of Member States have systems for restricting the numbers of students admitted (numerus clausus), either partially (6 countries) or generally (4 countries). Luxembourg not having a full university, the only real exception is Belgium which places no limits on student admissions.

1 - Some systems of higher education, notably those of Ireland and the United Kingdom, do not impose a quota system in the strictest sense of the term, but nonetheless apply very selective procedures for admission to some or all types of studies.

2 - **Foreign students from within the EC** holding the national qualification or qualifications required for entrance to higher education in the Member State where they wish to study are treated in the same way as students of that country.

3 - Foreign students from within the EC, referred to as **"transfer students"**, must have "equivalent" qualifications to be admitted to a foreign system of higher education. In general, qualifications are considered equivalent when they are similar to those required for admission to higher education in the student's **host Member State**, although in some Member States (Belgium, for example), equivalence is accorded to those qualifications which grant entry to higher education in the **student's own Member State**.

4 - The wide diversity of national regulations imposing quota restrictions (*numerus clausus)* and other forms of selection have led students in the Community to demand to be treated in the same way as "national" students in other Member States where admission requirements are less strict than in their own State. This applies in particular to courses such as medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry, entry to which is sometimes severely restricted, the number of places falling short of demand (for instance, in Greece and Ireland).

I. No restrictions on numbers or selection (for students with the required qualifications).
II. Partially restricted or selective entry.
III. Restricted or selective entry (*numerus clausus)* throughout the entire higher education system.

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	•											
II		•	•		•	•		•		•		
III				•			•				•	•

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Improvement of student mobility within the EC is dependent upon the following conditions:

1. "Transfer" students should have their qualifications recognised on entry to a higher education institution. It should be possible for this to be done at different stages in the course:

   - For entry at the beginning of a course, the situation is fairly clear.
   - For entry during a course, there are only a few bilateral or multilateral agreements on intermediate qualifications.
   - For entry at the PhD stage, this depends largely on the institution concerned and is decided on an individual basis or on the basis of bilateral agreements, as the case may be.

2. Students on exchange programmes should have their periods of study abroad recognised so that they count officially as part of their course in their own Member State.

Recognition of qualifications is provided for under the multilateral conventions of the Council of Europe and Unesco, in bilateral agreements between Member States or on a unilateral basis by individual Member States. The NARIC[1] network (part of the ERASMUS programme) centralises information regarding recognition and equivalence.

1. OFFICIAL AGREEMENTS

A. Multilateral agreements

Council of Europe:

- European Convention (No 15) on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (1953). Has been signed by all the Member States of the EC. Additional protocol (1964). Declarations (1974-89).
- European Convention (No 21) on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study spent in another Member State by students of modern languages (1956)[2].
- European Convention (No 32) on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications (1959).

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[1] NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centres

[2] Extended to all subjects by the Convention signed in Rome on 6 November 1990.

Unesco:

Conventions on the recognition of higher education periods of study, qualifications and degrees:

- in States bordering on the Mediterranean (1976); and
- in the European region (1979).

These Conventions encourage the recognition of qualifications both on initial entry to higher education and at the intermediate and final levels.

Table summarising the multilateral agreements

Convention No 15 (1953) on admission to university is in force in all Member States.

Member States of the EC	Conventions of the Council of Europe		Conventions of UNESCO	
	Periods of study (1956)	University qualifications (1959)	European Countries (1979)	Mediterranean Countries (1976)
B	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	N/A
DK	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	N/A
D	In force	In force	Signed but not ratified	N/A
GR			Signed but not ratified	Signed but not ratified
E	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	Signed but not ratified
F	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	Signed but not ratified
IRL	In force	In force	Signed but not ratified	N/A
I	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	Ratified - In force
L	In force	In force	Signed but not ratified	N/A
NL	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	N/A
P	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	N/A
UK	In force	In force	Ratified - In force	N/A

B. Recognition of the European and International Baccalaureates

The European Baccalaureate is fully recognised in all the EC Member States.

Member States of the EC	International Baccalaureate	
	Recognition by the State	Recognition by some or all higher education institutions
Belgium	Full	-
Denmark	Full	Full
Federal Republic of Germany	Limited	Limited
Greece	Full	-
Spain	Limited	Limited
France	-	Limited
Ireland	Limited	Limited
Italy	Full	Full
Luxembourg	-	-
Netherlands	Full	Full
Portugal	Limited	-
United Kingdom	-	Limited

C. Bilateral agreements and unilateral recognition

There are relatively few agreements of this type between Member States. Even where there are none, it does not mean that diplomas, degrees and other qualifications are not recognised by other Member States. There may be multilateral agreements in force, or the qualifications awarded in other Member States may be recognised generally. Qualifications may also be recognised on an individual case basis.

B			[F]		e	e		e,i,f	e,i	e[F]		
DK												
D						E,I,F		[I,F]		I,F		
GR												
E								E,F				
F			E,I,F									
IRL												
I	e		[I,F]		E,F	e,I,F						
L			E									
NL	e,i,f [F]		I,F									
P												
UK												
-->	**B**	**DK**	**D**	**GR**	**E**	**F**	**IRL**	**I**	**L**	**NL**	**P**	**UK**

Legend:

This table must be read starting from the first column.

Recognition of qualifications for admission to higher education:
- E = bilateral agreement
- e = unilateral recognition
- [] = not yet ratified

Recognition of intermediate qualifications:
- I = bilateral agreement
- i = unilateral recognition
- [] = not yet ratified

Recognition of final qualifications:
- F = bilateral agreement
- f = unilateral recognition
- [] = not yet ratified

2. RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS IN PRACTICE

As has been demonstrated, there are only a few bilateral agreements between Member States or instances of unilateral recognition. This means that in practice problems of recognition are often dealt with on an individual case basis. The institutions responsible for these decisions differ greatly from one Member State to another. Where certain problems of equivalence do arise, they can be solved either by taking tests or by entering the course at a lower level.

This table gives only a brief résumé of the situation in practice. It is impossible to summarise the situation as regards the recognition of university qualifications.

Member States	Body responsible	Admission at start of course	Adjustments possible	Admission at an intermediate level	Adjustments possible
Belgium	Education Ministers of the "Communities".	Recognition easy for university studies: more difficult for non-university higher education.		Case-by-case basis.	Additional work or tests may be required.
Denmark	Higher education institutions.	Recognition easy.	Additional examinations may be required for some subjects.	On a case-by-case basis; direct recognition RARE. Additional work or tests generally required.	
Federal Republic of Germany	Higher education institutions or central bureau for the allocation of places.	Recognition easy in accordance with the European Convention (1953).	If no equivalent qualification at secondary level (non EC countries), option of sitting "Feststellungs-prüfung".	Case-by-case basis.	Oral examination at the higher education institution.
Greece	DIKATSA or ITE (inter-university institutions).	Individual course assessment.		No recognition, except for Greek students (with examination).	
Spain	Education Ministry (or Tourism Ministry for students in this area).	"Approval" necessary.	Entrance exam: "Selectividad".	On a case-by-case basis.	Entrance examination "Selectividad".
France	Higher education institutions.	Recognition on an individual case basis, according to the institution.		On a case-by-case basis, according to a personal evaluation by each institution.	
Ireland	Higher education institutions. Consultant: NARIC.	Recognition easy but numbers restricted: places not guaranteed.		Case-by-case basis, after examination of curricula.	
Italy	Higher education institutions.	Recognition easy with exam in Italian and entrance exam (as for Italian students).		On a case-by-case basis, with possible exemption from some examinations.	
Luxembourg	National Education Ministry.	Recognition easy.		Not applicable: only one full year of study.	
Netherlands	Higher education institutions. Consultant: NUFFIC.	Recognition easy with Germany and Belgium; otherwise on a case-by-case basis.		Idem.	
Portugal	GCIES and higher education institutions.	Case-by-case examination of curricula.	Testing to determine level may be required.	According to assessment of curriculum.	Acceptance at lower level possible.
United Kingdom	Higher education institutions. Consultants: NARIC and the British Council.	Case-by-case, according to curriculum.		On a case-by-case basis; recognition RARE, possibility of credit.	

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3. RECOGNITION OF PERIODS OF STUDY AND CREDITS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Host country	Conditions	Recognition of Periods of Study	Credits
Belgium	No equivalence required.	Certificate of attendance (3 months). Examination certificate (one year).	Provided for in EC exchange programmes.
Denmark	No equivalence required. Non-graduating students accepted on the basis of their proposed course of study.	Programmes such as ERASMUS can provide more easily for recognition of periods of study. Possibility of recognition of some periods of study as non-graduating students.	As for "Periods of Study".
Federal Republic of Germany	No equivalence required.	On the basis of equivalence.	As for "Periods of Study".
Greece	No equivalence required (ERASMUS).	As provided for in the exchange programmes.	As for "Periods of Study".
Spain	No equivalence required for ERASMUS. Non-graduating students accepted on the basis of their curriculum and proposed course of study.	As under the exchange programme.	As for "Periods of Study".
France	No equivalence required. Non-graduating students must justify application.	Problems are solved by inter-University agreements.	As for "Periods of Study".
Ireland	No equivalence required for ERASMUS.	Problems exist, even within the ERASMUS framework, due to problems of adjustment between national curricula.	As for "Periods of Study".
Italy	No equivalence required for ERASMUS. Non-graduating students take Corsi Singoli after approval of the Consiglio della Facoltà.	As provided for in exchange programmes. Non-graduating students receive a certificate for attendance and exams.	Problems with conversion of points; maximum marks not uncommon in Italy.
Luxembourg			
Netherlands	ERASMUS: no equivalence required. Double selection for cultural exchange programmes (home and host institutions).	Certificates provided by institutions.	Provided for in EC exchange programmes. More problematical for other programmes.
Portugal	ERASMUS or cultural exchanges: no equivalence required.	Provided for in exchange programmes.	Provided for in exchange programmes.
United Kingdom	No equivalence required for ERASMUS. Non-graduating students accepted on the basis of their curriculum.	Certificates can be provided by institutions.	For students participating in ECTS[1]

[1] ECTS = European Credit Transfer Scheme

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

One of the main obstacles to the mobility of students is still their inadequate command of the languages in which courses are given in the host countries. Most Member States demand a certain level of proficiency in their language and require foreign students to take a language test on entry, unless they either have documentary evidence of such proficiency or have taken an entrance examination in the language of the country. In some Member States, these requirements are national while in others they are set by the institutions concerned.

Member States	National requirements	Exemptions	Requirements of the Higher Education Institutions
Belgium	None.	-	Certificate required or nothing.
Denmark	None.	Nationals of Scandinavian countries with Danish as a second language.	Compulsory test (Danish Test II).
Federal Republic of Germany	Goethe Institute[1] or Standing Conference[2] or PNdS[3] exam.	Students from German-speaking regions.	Compulsory test or certificate required
Greece	Certificate granted by the University of Athens or Thessaloniki, after completion of courses. Test for Greeks who have been out of the country for over five years.		None.
Spain	Entrance exam in Spanish (Selectividad).	-	None
France	Compulsory test.	Students from French-speaking countries or holders of the French, Franco-German or European Baccalaureate.	Test in accordance with the regulations of the institution.
Ireland	None.	-	Certificate required or a test has to be taken.
Italy	Compulsory test.	Entrance exam in Italian for applicants to ISEF, SADFS and art schools.	None.
Luxembourg	None.	-	None.
Netherlands	Compulsory test.	Students from Dutch-speaking regions or holders of foreign certificates including a Dutch examination.	None.
Portugal	None.	-	None.
United Kingdom	Compulsory test	-	Compulsory test, or certificate required, or no requirement

[1] Kleines deutsches Sprachdiplom der Goethe Institut.

[2] Diploma of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder.

[3] Prüfung zum Nachweis deutscher Sprachkenntnisse (German language proficiency exam).

Courses given in a foreign language

Courses with an international orientation are given in English in Belgium, in Denmark, in Germany (at post-graduate level) and in the Netherlands, while in Flanders (Belgium) and in the Saarland (FRG), some courses are given in French.

Language training

Language courses for foreign applicants are also available in all Member States during the academic year. Many Member States also provide intensive summer courses.

For those who wish to study in their home country, some Member States have organisations for the dissemination of their culture in the other Member States - France (Alliance française), Germany (Goethe-Institut), the UK (British Council), Italy (Dante Alighieri) and Spain (Instituto Cervantes).

Language requirements for exchange programmes

- In selecting students, the home institutions are expected to take account of their language skills. Only a few Irish institutions require students to sit a standardised test or have an interview.

- Within the framework of the ERASMUS Programme, many Member States offer special language courses to students involved in exchanges. These courses are free of charge if within the budget of the Inter-University Cooperation Programme (ICP).

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS[1]

I Registration directly with the institution.
II Application through a central organisation.
III Combination of I and II.

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*	*	*						*			
II				*	*		*	*			*	
III						*				*		*[2]

[1] No account is taken here of the procedures for national students or EC students holding the qualification of the Member State in which they wish to study.

[2] Students apply to individual institutions through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), but admissions are decided by the institutions themselves. Students register with the institution concerned. (For ERASMUS students, the ICP procedures apply.)

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

Students wishing to pursue higher education courses in another EC Member State must comply with a number of formalities which can vary depending on the length of their stay.

In most countries, a student planning to stay in another Member State for more than 3 months (6 months in the UK) must produce one or more of the following documents in order to obtain a residence permit in the host country:

I Passport or national identity card.
II Proof of enrolment in an institution of higher education.
III Proof of medical insurance.
IV Proof of sufficient funds to cover living costs.
V Proof of accommodation.

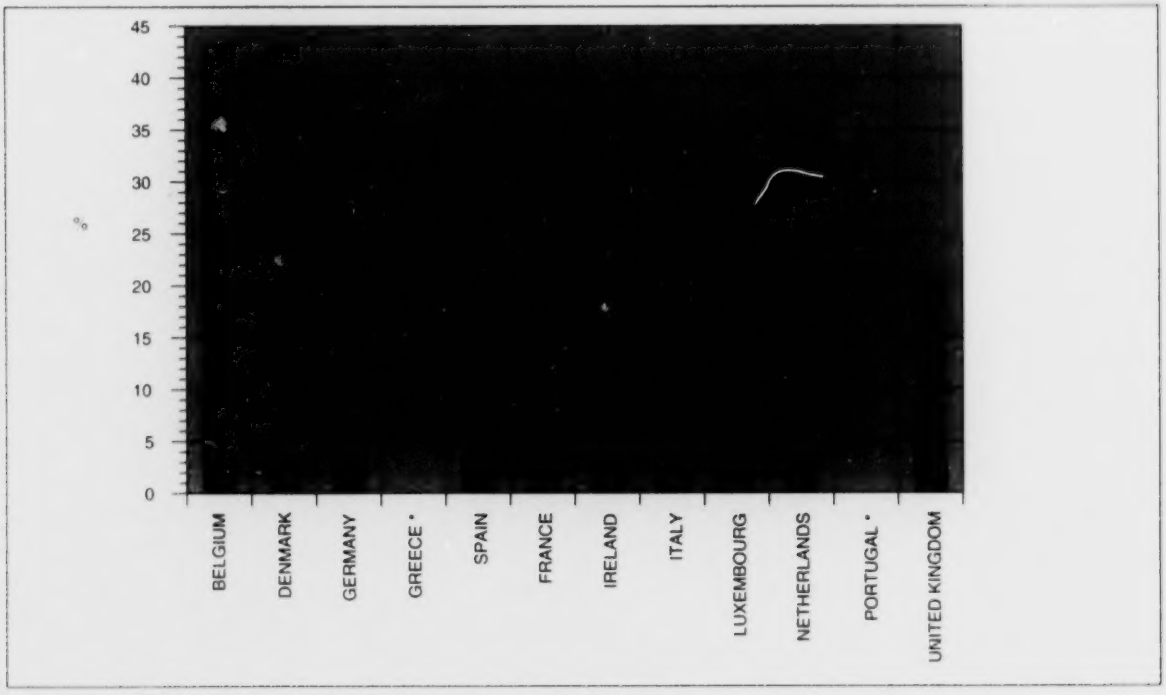
	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
II	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
III					•	•		•		•		
IV	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•
V						•					•	

Some Member States have additional requirements. Portugal, for example, demands a medical certificate and a police certificate of good conduct. Italy demands a certified translation of the secondary school leaving certificate.

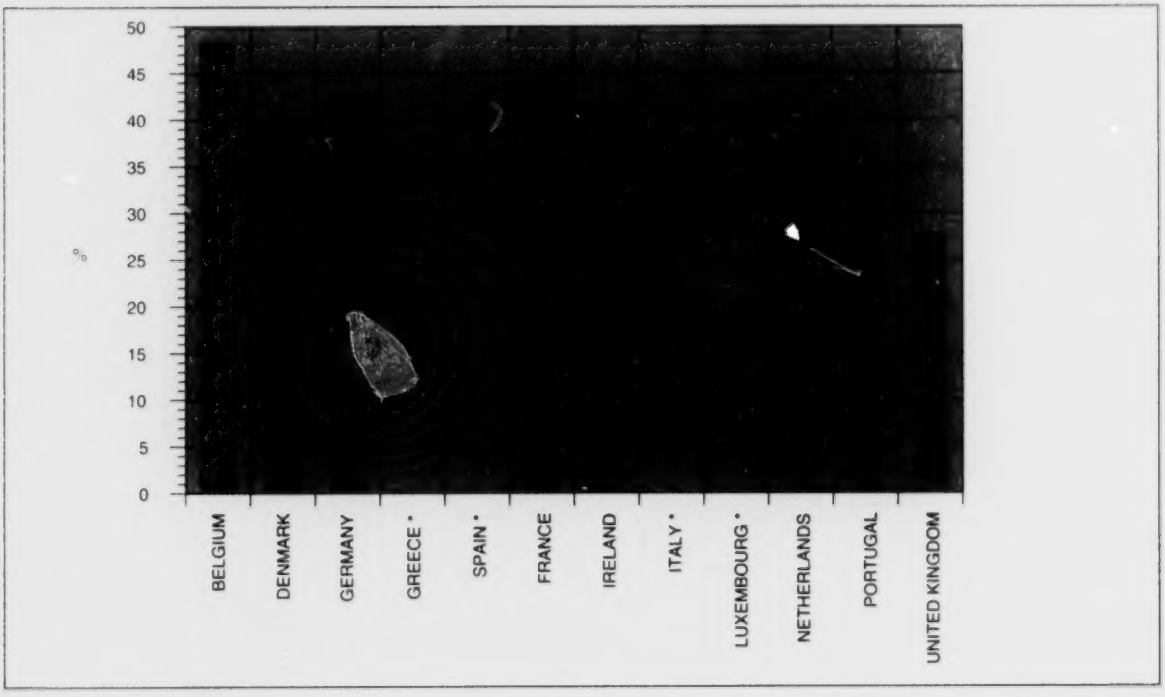
ENTRY RATIOS TO FULL-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Ratio of first-time entrants to population at the theoretical starting age

1988 Figures
Source OECD, Education at a Glance (1992)

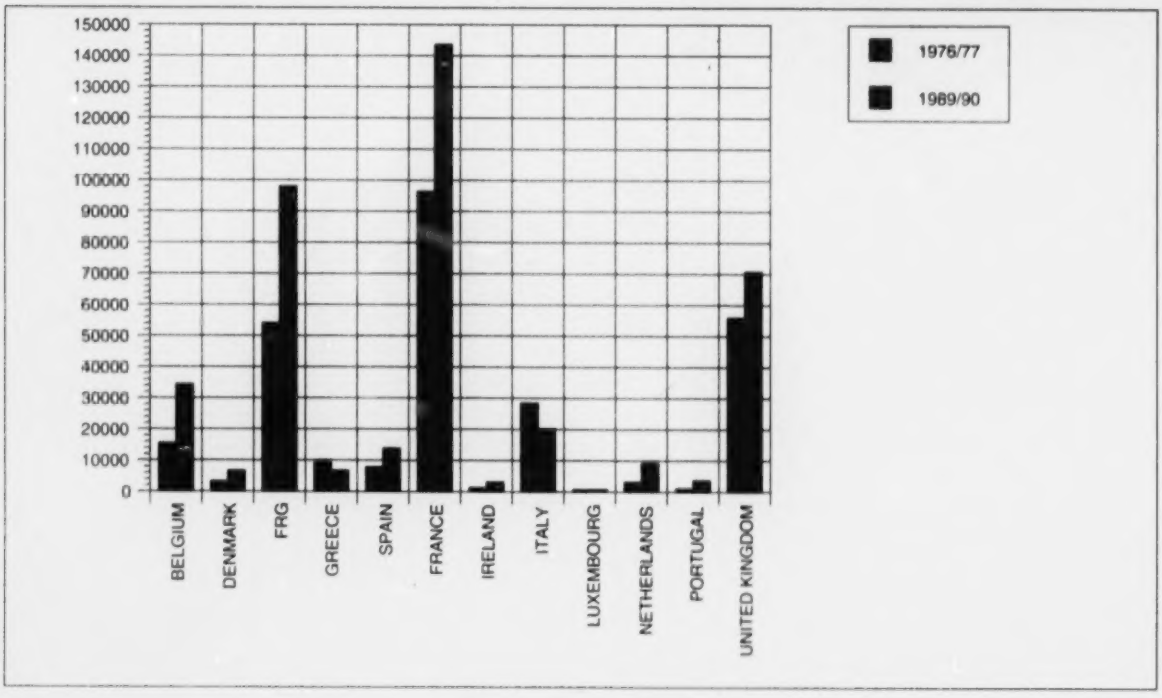


1991 Figures
Source OECD, Education at a Glance (1993)

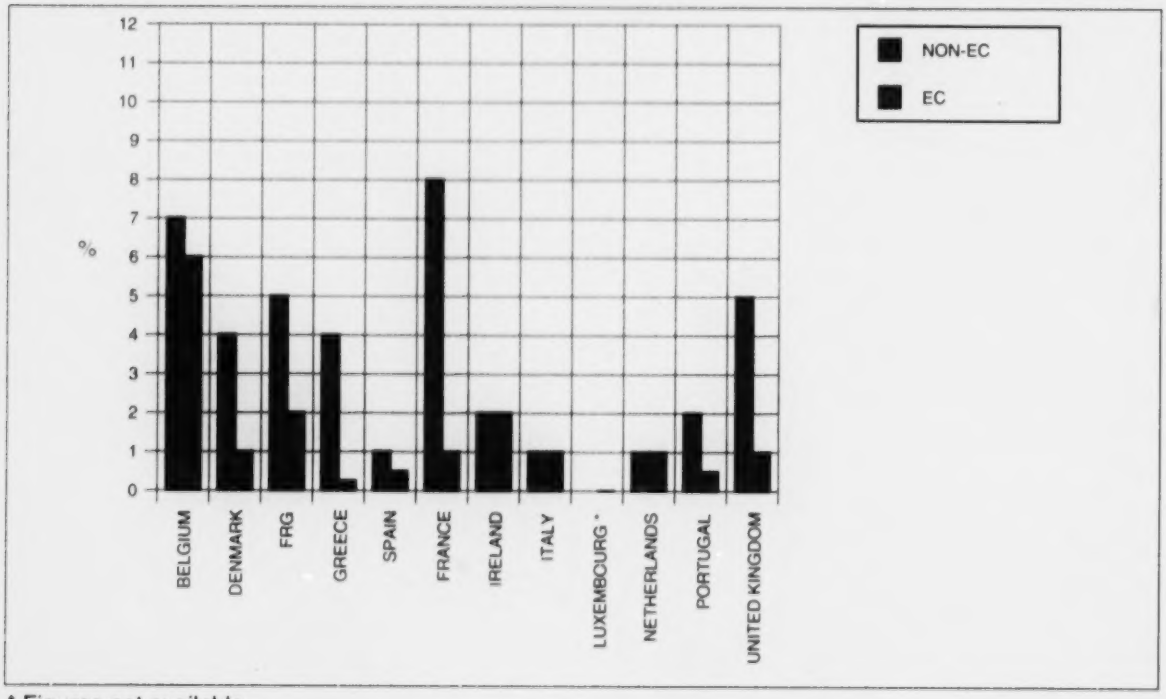


* Figures not available

MOVEMENT IN NUMBERS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (EC AND NON-EC)



PERCENTAGES OF EC AND NON-EC FOREIGN STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (1989 Figures)



* Figures not available

Source Statistical Yearbook Unesco, 1991

The term "foreign students" is applied to students enrolled in higher education institutions in a country of which they are not nationals, except in Ireland and the United Kingdom, where the term applies to students not permanently resident in the host country.

NATIONAL SUMMARIES

BELGIUM - FRENCH COMMUNITY

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. National students and EC students holding the qualification of this Member State.

For short-type higher education: an upper secondary school leaving certificate.

For long-type higher education and university education: an upper secondary school leaving certificate and a certificate of aptitude for higher education.

Entrance examinations are required in some cases (for civil engineering studies, military schools and some specialised schools).

b. EC "Transfer" Students

A secondary school leaving certificate recognised as equivalent to the certificate of upper secondary studies (short-type) and certificate of aptitude for higher education (long-type and university education).

Entrance examinations are required in the same subjects as for national students (there is no specific entrance examination for non-Belgian students).

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Belgium does not apply a system of numerus clausus. All students who hold the standard qualifications required for entry to higher education may be admitted. For this reason many students from other Member States which do apply numerus clausus come to Belgium to study, particularly those who wish to pursue courses for which demand is high and for which a very strict numerus clausus is applied in their home country.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO conventions:	in force, ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	Full recognition by the State

During the 1960s, Belgium signed bilateral agreements on automatic recognition with the following countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands. These agreements must be updated to reflect developments in the education systems of the countries involved; they are no longer systematically applied and students from these countries must request recognition of their qualifications. In practice, recognition is generally granted.

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: Ministry of Education, Research and Training.

Few problems arise concerning entry into higher education. For entry at an intermediate level, students are required to complete additional work if the content of the part of the cycle which they completed in their home country does not correspond to that of the same part of the cycle in the Belgian French-speaking Community.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Certificate of attendance (after three months).
Certificate of completion of examinations (after one year).

Credits: As provided for in the exchange programme.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
None. However, since education is given in French, students must have sufficient mastery of the language (including Belgian students whose first language is not French, but Dutch or German).

Courses in a foreign language:
The universities of the French-speaking Community provide education in specialised third-cycle courses in foreign languages (English, French/English, French/German).

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

Available in some establishments.

Possible use of a foreign language:

See above.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Directly with the institution.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Short Stay (less than three months)

Students must register with the authorities in the commune where they reside.

Documents required: identification papers.

b. Long Stay

Within one week of arrival, students must register with the office for the registration of foreigners in the commune where they reside.

Documents required:

* identification papers;
* proof of student grant or a declaration, certified by their Embassy, that they will be maintained by their family or by a Belgian citizen;
* proof of enrolment at a university or an institution of higher education;
* identity photos.

After completing formalities, the student receives an *attestation d'immatriculation au registre des étrangers* (foreigner's registration card) which is valid for one year and has to be renewed on a regular basis throughout the period of study.

BELGIUM - FLEMISH COMMUNITY

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. National students and EC students holding the qualification of this Member State.

For all higher education (university or non-university): an upper secondary school leaving certificate.

Entrance examinations are required in some cases (for studies in civil engineering and architectural civil engineering, military schools and some specialised schools providing artistic or maritime education).

b. EC "Transfer" Students

Conditions of entry to long-type university and non-university education are set out in the 1953 Convention of the Council of Europe.

For short-type non-university education, a secondary school leaving certificate equivalent to the corresponding Flemish qualification is required.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Belgium does not apply a system of numerus clausus. All students who hold the standard qualification required for entry to higher education may be admitted. For this reason many students from other Member States which do apply numerus clausus come to Belgium to study, particularly those who wish to pursue courses for which demand is high and for which a very strict numerus clausus is applied in their home country.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO conventions:	in force, ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	Full recognition by the State

Belgium and the Netherlands signed agreements for the recognition of certain qualifications in the non-university sector in 1988.

The Flemish Community and the Netherlands signed agreements on entry to Flemish non-university education in 1991 and 1993.

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: Flemish Ministry of Education.

The Flemish Ministry of Education is responsible for recognition in the following areas:

- recognition of qualifications in the non-university sector (except for qualifications giving entry to long-type education);
- recognition of university qualifications for the completion of the second cycle;
- recognition of level.

In all other cases, the institutions themselves take decisions.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Certificate of attendance (after three months).
Certificate of completion of examinations (after one year).

Credits: As provided for in the exchange programme.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
Some institutions require satisfactory knowledge of Dutch.

Courses in a foreign language:
Most universities, and some non-university institutions offering long-type education, offer programmes in English, and some have courses in French or German.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

Available in all establishments.

Possible use of a foreign language:

See above.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Directly with the institution.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Short Stay (less than three months)

Students must register with the authorities in the commune where they reside.

Documents required: identification papers.

b. Long Stay

Within one week of arrival, students must register with the office for the registration of foreigners in the commune where they reside.

Documents required:

* identification papers;
* proof of student grant or a declaration, certified by the Embassy, of support from family or a Belgian citizen;
* proof of enrolment at a university or in an institution of higher education;
* identity photos.

After completing formalities, the student receives a foreigner's registration card which is valid for one year and has to be renewed on a regular basis throughout the period of study.

DENMARK

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. *National students and EC students holding the qualification of this Member State.*

Secondary school leaving certificate.

b. *EC "Transfer" Students*

. Must have a recognised secondary school qualification.
. Must have passed entrance examinations, where required, in their home Member State.
. For some courses, must sit additional tests.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

a. The State determines the total number of study places available for higher education. It is necessary to apply a numerus clausus to a number of courses, eg. medicine, dentistry, pre-school and teacher education. Due to a pluri-annual political agreement there will gradually be a freer intake for most study programmes depending on the capacity of the individual institutions. The institutions themselves set the qualification requirements which the applicants have to satisfy for the individual course of study.

b. There are no restrictions on the number of foreign students from EC Member States, except for the numerus clausus stated above in 2 a.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official agreements

- 1953 agreement on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreement on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreement on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO convention:	YES
- Recognition of European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of International Baccalaureate:	YES
- Agreements on the equivalence of qualifications providing entry to universities in the following countries:	NONE
- Agreements on entry during studies:	NONE
- Agreements on recognition of final degrees:	NONE

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: *The institutions of higher education concerned.*

Under multilateral agreements, all qualifications providing entry to university in EC countries of origin are a sufficient and necessary condition for entry in Denmark. In certain branches, additional tests may be required.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required.
Non-graduating students*: acceptance depends on their proposed course of study.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
The recognition of periods of study is guaranteed according to exchange programmes such as ERASMUS. It is also possible to have periods of study recognized as an non-graduating student.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
Danish Test II.

Courses in foreign languages:
Increasing number of courses in English.

Language training: See exchange programmes.

Organizations for the promotion of culture abroad:
None.

* Students attending only part of a course and/or not taking exams.

Exchange programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to select students, bearing in mind the criteria for language proficiency.

Special language courses:

Available in several establishments (University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, Roskilde University Centre).

Possibilities for using a foreign language:

Increasing number of courses in English.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Directly with the institution of their choice or through the *Central Advisory Service* of the University of Copenhagen.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Short Stay (less than 3 months)

No formalities or special authorization required.

b. Long Stay

The student must apply for an EC residence permit from the Directorate for foreigners via the local police or from the Danish Embassy in his or her home Member State.

Documents required:

* proof of enrolment at an institution of higher education;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses;
* proof of a health insurance that covers expenses in case of illness.

A student planning to stay longer than 3 months must, within 5 days of arriving in the country, register at the registration office of the municipality where he or she will reside during his or her studies. The student will receive a *certificate of registration* and a registration number from the central register, like any Danish citizen.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. National students and EC students holding the qualification of this Member State.

Students must possess a qualification allowing entry to:
- either higher education (*Hochschulreife*)
- or studies at a *Fachhochschule* (institute of technical higher education).

Three types of qualifications provide entry to higher education:
- the general secondary school leaving certificate (the *allgemeine Hochschulreife*) which gives entry to all higher education without exception;
- the technical secondary school leaving certificate (the *fachgebundene Hochschulreife*) which gives entry to certain university studies, to establishments at university level and to *Fachhochschulen*;
- the *Fachhochschulreife*, which allows entry to the *Fachhochschule* and to integrated courses at universities (*Gesamthochschule*).

b. EC "Transfer" Students

These students must have a secondary school leaving certificate which gives entry to higher education in their home country, or have been granted a university place in their home country.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

a. In a large number of fields of study, no numerus clausus is applied.

b. Given the large number of applicants and the shortage of university places, there are restrictions on the admission of German and foreign students throughout the country in some disciplines (such as medicine, architecture, law, economics, biology, pharmacy and psychology, for example). In these subjects, places are allocated to German and EC students on the basis of the results of two centralised competitive examinations. Criteria for selection of applicants include the average mark received in the qualification giving entry to higher education and the number of semesters since obtaining this qualification ("waiting time"). In medicine, interviews at the establishment and the results of a test are also taken into account.

c. In addition to these restrictions, which are in force throughout Germany, local restrictions on admission are also applied in some disciplines (particularly for courses in the higher technical institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse) and in some establishments. Each establishment defines its own specific criteria for admission; these are determined in accordance with the law of the *Land* concerned.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO conventions:	Signed, not yet ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	Partial recognition of the private International Baccalaureate if awarded after twelve years of study of progressive difficulty.
- Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	F, L
- Agreements on entry to courses of study:	L, F, NL
- Agreements on the recognition of final degrees:	F, NL, (B, I to be ratified)

Underlined: bilateral agreements Not underlined: unilateral recognition

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: The institutions of higher education concerned or test for allocation of places to students.

If the applicant does not have a qualification giving entry to higher education, he or she may sit a test (the *Feststellungsprüfung*) after two semesters of preparation in a *Studienkolleg*. This rule also applies to EC students possessing qualifications from outside the EC which are not equivalent to the German qualification (the *Hochschulreife*) giving entry to higher education.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: Establishments of higher education participating in the programme agree on recognition criteria.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Recognition is based on equivalences. Agreements are in place between establishments of higher education which cooperate within the framework of exchange programmes.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:

Test of knowledge of German (PNdS) or the German language qualification of the KMK, level II, or the basic German language qualification of the Goethe Institut.

Exemptions: Students from German-speaking regions.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:

See above.

Foreign language courses:

Offered in some disciplines with an international or European focus.

Language training:

Courses are offered to foreign students by the major institutions *(Akademische Auslandsämter)*, the Goethe Institut, the Carl Duisberg Centres, etc; these courses are generally for advanced students.

Provision of information abroad:

Goethe Institut and other German cultural institutes, universities.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

Available in several establishments.

Possible use of a foreign language:

Depends on area of study; possible mainly for courses in French and English in the third cycle (*Aufbaustudium, Zusatzstudium*).

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Directly with the institution.

Applications and information about admissions may be obtained from the *Akademische Auslandsämter*, from the secretariats of institutions, from German diplomatic missions or Consulates abroad or from the offices of the DAAD *(Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)*.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

The student must obtain a residence permit from the local registration office for foreigners in Germany.

Documents required:

* a passport;
* a certificate of admission from an institution of higher education;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover study costs.

On arriving in Germany, students must register with the registration office for foreigners which is responsible for the area where they will reside during their period of study.

The residence permit is renewable; requests for an extension must be made prior to the expiry date.

GREECE

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. National Students

- An upper secondary school leaving certificate (*Apolytirio Lykeiou*).
- General (national) higher education entrance examinations (*Genikes Exetasis*) organized in four groups of subjects.
- For some courses, there are national examinations in specific subjects (e.g. in the language(s) concerned for foreign language studies).

b. EC Students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" Students

These students are not required to sit the entrance examination. In the numerus clausus system, a certain number of places are reserved for foreigners.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

a. Greek higher education does not offer enough places to meet demand. Only 33% of students with the required qualifications are admitted. For this reason, 25 to 30% of Greek students study abroad (particularly in Germany, France, the UK and, formerly, in Belgium).

b. The maximum quota for transfer students studying in Greece has been set at 1% for foreigners and 7% for Greek students returning from abroad.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	NO
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	NO
- 1979 UNESCO Conventions:	Signed, not ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	YES
- Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	None
- Agreements on entry to courses of study:	None
- Agreements on the recognition of final degrees:	None

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: The DIKATSA (inter-university institute) for university studies or the ITE (Institute for Technological Education) for studies in an Institution of Technological Education.

Each case is considered individually on the basis of the applicant's school record. There is no recognition of intermediate qualifications, except for Greek students who have studied abroad and who must sit an examination.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
As provided for in exchange programmes.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
Certificate from the Institute of Languages of the University of Athens or from the Institute of Modern Greek of Thessaloniki.

Exemptions: No.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
/

Foreign language courses:
No.

Language training:
See above.

Provision of information abroad:
No.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

Intensive winter courses (three levels) at the University of Athens or the University of Thessaloniki.

Possible use of a foreign language:

No.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Through a central body, the Ministry of National Education and Religion (department for higher education entrance examinations).

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

Apparently no official formalities or financial guarantees are required. A visa is necessary for those foreign students wishing to work during their period of study in Greece.

SPAIN

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" Students

- Secondary school leaving certificate.
- One-year preparatory course (COU or *Curso de orientación universitario*)[1].
- Entrance examinations: the *Selectividad*, which in principle is necessary only for long-type university studies, but in practice is required everywhere, except for students with a qualification of advanced vocational training (*Formación profesional de segundo grado* or *Modulos profesionales Nivel III*), who may directly enter the *Escuela Universitaria* (short cycle) based on previous study.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Each year, the University Council, a national body, determines the number of available places in each higher education establishment. Seventy per cent of the study courses are subject to numerus clausus (1991-1992).

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO conventions:	In force, ratified
1976	Signed, not ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	Partial recognition by the State and educational institutions
- Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	I
- Agreements on entry to courses of study:	None
- Agreements on the recognition of final degrees:	I

Underlined: bilateral agreements Not underlined: unilateral recognition

[1] This course will be eliminated when the new educational plan takes effect (beginning in 1999-2000).

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: Ministry of Education (or the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Trade for studies in tourism and hotel work).

Although Spain has concluded cultural agreements with most European countries, applicants must be approved by the appropriate Ministry and also pass the entrance examination (*Selectividad*).

Recognition of intermediate higher certificates is granted by educational institutions. If a first year of university studies is not recognised, the applicant will be required to complete the Spanish university admission procedure and to sit the *Selectividad*.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS.
Non-graduating students accepted according to the curriculum and study project.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
As provided for in exchange programmes by each university or higher education institution.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
No test, but the entrance examination (*Selectividad*) is required instead.

Exemptions: No.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
/

Courses in a foreign language:
No.

Language training:
Most universities and *Escuelas oficiales de Idiomas* offer Spanish language and culture courses throughout the year.

Provision of information abroad:
Instituto Cervantes.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

See above.

Possible use of a foreign language:

No.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

- The student's secondary school leaving certificate must be verified by the Spanish Consulate.
- The student must register for the *Selectividad* at the Spanish Consulate. Examinations are given in Brussels, Paris, London, Bern and Cologne (and in Madrid, for applicants from other countries).
- The student may then register with the institution in question.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Short Stay (less than three months)

No visa or residence permit is necessary; an identity card is sufficient.

b. Long Stay

If staying for more than three months, students must apply through a police station to obtain a residence permit from the Interior Ministry. Students must provide proof of sufficient funds and specify the purpose of their stay.

FRANCE

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" Students

Conditions for entry to higher education depend on the type of studies (university or non-university) which the student wishes to pursue.

- **Universities:**

  The student must hold a *baccalauréat* (general, technological or vocational) or a qualification considered equivalent, or have passed a special examination for university entrance (ESEU), either the literary (ESEU A) or scientific (ESEU B) section, depending on the studies the student wishes to undertake.

- ***Instituts universitaires de technologie* (IUT) or *sections de techniciens supérieurs* (STS):**

  The *baccalauréat* or a qualification considered equivalent is required; students are selected on the basis of their school record.

- **Public or private non-university higher education (engineering schools, business and management schools, national veterinary schools, architecture schools, etc.):**

  Students admitted to this type of education are chosen from among *baccalauréat* holders.

  The most prestigious schools (the *grandes écoles*) require the *baccalauréat* as well as two years of special preparation in *classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles* (CPGE) and an extremely selective competitive entrance examination.

  The other schools have varying requirements for admission. All require the *baccalauréat* plus a competitive examination or assessment of the student's school record.

  Entry to various levels of post-*baccalauréat* education offered by establishments under the jurisdiction of the Ministry responsible for higher education, including universities and public institutes or other establishments of higher education, may also be authorised on the basis of recognition of studies, work experience or personal achievement, as provided for in Decree No. 85-906 of 23 August 1985. This recognition either gives the student direct entry to education offered by the establishment leading to a national qualification or other degree regulated by the State or allows the student to participate in an establishment's competitive entrance

examination. Holders of foreign qualifications or degrees may request recognition. A decision will be taken by the President of the university or the director of the establishment based on a proposal put forward by its education committee.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Regulations are identical for nationals and foreign students.

a. French universities do not apply a system of numerus clausus for registration in the first year of the first cycle. However, admission is contingent upon the number of places which each establishment has available in the area of study requested. Public or private institutes or schools under the authority of various Ministries, short university-level courses (such as university institutes of technology and upper technical sections) are selective.

b. Selection takes place at the start of the second year of medical studies in the form of an *examen classant* or "ranking examination".

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- Entry to university establishments: 1953 — YES
- Recognition of periods of study: 1956, 1990 — YES
- Agreements on university qualifications: 1959 — YES
- UNESCO conventions for Europe Region: 1979 — YES
  UNESCO conventions with Mediterranean countries: 1976 — Signed, not ratified

- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate: — YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate: — Partial recognition by establishments under the same conditions as foreign qualifications (cf. 1985 Decree cited above)

- Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university: — FRG
- Agreements on entry to courses of study: — FRG
- Agreements on the recognition of final degrees: — FRG

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: the establishment of higher education concerned.

There are no standard equivalences between French and foreign qualifications.

Heads of establishments are responsible for decisions regarding the academic recognition of qualifications.

Foreign students wishing to pursue university-level studies in France contact the establishment of their choice. The President of the university or the director of the establishment in question determines the admission level based on a proposal put forward by the education committee, which examines the applicant's record of previous studies together with professional and personal experience.

A 1980 agreement with Germany defines exemptions from requirements for previous courses and qualifications in the sciences, arts and social sciences and was extended to cover economics, management, political science and law in 1986.

A 1975 protocol with Luxembourg complemented by two additional protocols (1981, 1982) gives students from Luxembourg entry without pre-registration to the Universities of Strasbourg, Nancy, Paris VI and the INP of Nancy.

A 1982 framework agreement with Italy regulates inter-university agreements leading to the award of a combined *maîtrise* and *laurea*.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: Determined by the teaching staff organising the exchange programme.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Usually provided for and described specifically in the inter-university agreement upon which the Cooperation Programme concerned is based.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
National test to evaluate language level.

Exemptions:
Students in the categories listed under (b) in the "Application and Registration" section.

German students are all required to take the test, except those who have

obtained the *allgemeine Hochschulreife* with an above-average mark and those whose secondary studies were in bilingual French-German sections; Italian students from the bilingual sections of the Santissima Annunziate state high school in Florence, holders of the DALF and nationals of countries where French is the official language are also exempt.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:

Testing may be carried out by the establishment in accordance with its own regulations.

Courses in a foreign language:

No.

Language training:

Courses in French as a foreign language are given by some French universities during the academic year and during the summer.

Provision of information abroad:

Lycée Français, Alliance Française.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Selection is carried out by the teaching staff organising the exchange in the student's home country. Knowledge of the language is a deciding factor.

Special language courses:

Available in most programmes before the student's departure or in the host country depending on the type of exchange.

Possible use of a foreign language:

No.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

A combined system is in effect.

a. Most students obtain application forms from the cultural service of the French Embassy in their home country. They then choose two establishments, including one outside of Paris and the Ile-de-France.
The Embassy transmits the application for enrolment to the first and then the second establishment chosen.
If the application is accepted, the student is responsible for final enrolment in the establishment.

b. The following students may enrol directly in an institution:

. first-year students with a French, Franco-German or European *baccalauréat*,

. German students from bilingual sections or holders of the *allgemeine Hochschulreife* with a grade equal to or above the average in French,

. German students wishing to study arts, sciences, human sciences, law, political science or economics,

. students coming to France within the framework of inter-university agreements,

. stateless persons or refugees awaiting a response from the OFPRA (French Office for Refugees or Stateless Persons - *Office français pour réfugiés et apatrides*),

. students who are candidates for a university qualification,

. students receiving grants from the French government, international bodies or foreign governments whose grants are administered by an approved French authority,

. children of diplomats posted in France,

. candidates for enrolment in the second or third cycle, for a preparatory class for the *grandes écoles*, for an IUT or for an establishment where entrance is determined by competitive examination.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Short Stay (less than three months)

A residence permit is not necessary.

b. Long Stay

Within two months of arrival, the student must apply via a police station to obtain a temporary residence permit from the Interior Ministry.

Documents required:

* a passport or identity card;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses.[1]
  (For grant beneficiaries, certification of the amount and duration of the grant on the letterhead of the body providing the grant.)
* a student card;
* identity photos.

Students then receive a renewable residence permit valid for one year.

[1] The required amount was 2,400 FF per month in 1993.

IRELAND

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" students.

Secondary school leaving certificate only.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

The number of places available in Irish institutions of higher education is very limited. This leads to strong competition among students, who must have excellent marks to be able to undertake highly sought-after studies, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, law or management.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official agreements

-	1953 agreement on university entry:	YES
-	1956 agreement on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
-	1959 agreement on university qualifications:	YES
-	1979 UNESCO convention:	Signed, not ratified
-	Recognition of European Baccalaureate:	YES
-	Recognition of International Baccalaureate:	Partial recognition by the State and higher education institutions
-	Agreements on the equivalence of qualifications providing entry to universities in the following countries:	NONE
-	Agreements on entry during studies:	NONE
-	Agreements on recognition of final degrees:	NONE

Recognition of qualifications in practice

Institution responsible: The institutions of higher education concerned (in consultation with NARIC).

There are no unilateral or bilateral agreements with other Member States, but, in practice, any qualification granting entry in a student's home Member State is necessary for entry to the university. However, given the restricted number of places available and the high degree of competition for places, this is not always enough.

Acceptance at an intermediate level of study is granted on a case-by-case basis, after examination of the curricula.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required (for ERASMUS).

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Problems with recognition exist, even within the framework of ERASMUS, given the difficulties of establishing equivalence between national curricula.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None

Exemptions:

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
Certificate or pass mark on a standardised test required.

Courses in foreign languages:
None

Language training:
Specialised schools outside of institutions of higher education.

Provision of information abroad:
None

Exchange programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:
Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students. However, some institutions require students to sit a test or have an interview.

Special language courses:
None

Possibilities for using a foreign language:
None

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Registration with a central authority, the *Central Applications Office* (CAO/CAS).

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

Except for nationals of the United Kingdom, all students from an EC Member State must, upon their arrival in Ireland, go to the immigration office at the port or airport of entry.

Documents required:

* passport;
* proof of enrolment in an institution of higher education;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses.

Within three months of their arrival, students must go to the Aliens Registration Office of the Department of Justice in Dublin or the nearest Garda (Police) station, and present the same documents as at the immigration office.
Students from the UK are not required to go to the immigration office at the port or airport of entry; students born in the UK are not required to register as foreigners at the registration office or obtain a residence permit.

ITALY

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" Students.

- Secondary school leaving certificate: the *maturità*.
- Examinations: in public universities, if numerus clausus is applied, an entrance examination in the form of aptitude tests and tests of general knowledge is required.

In addition, students must meet conditions for entry to higher education in their home country and have taken an entrance examination if one is required.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Some fields of study are subject to numerus clausus, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, environmental sciences and "international studies".

Numerus clausus is also applied to specialised schools, diploma courses at university, proficiency schools, research doctorates and all new courses at university as well as to higher non-university studies. There is no national quota for the number of places reserved for national students. Each university indicates the number of places available for foreign students during a particular year.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

- 1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
- 1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
- 1976, 1979 UNESCO conventions:	In force, ratified
- Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	Full recognition by the State and educational institutions
- Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	B,F,E
- Agreements on entry to courses of study:	F, (FRG to be ratified)
- Agreements on the recognition of final degrees:	F,E, (FRG to be ratified)

Underlined: bilateral agreements Not underlined: unilateral recognition

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: The higher education institutions concerned.

Applicants for university studies must:

- hold a qualification granting them university entry in their home country,
- sit an Italian examination,
- sit an entrance examination (as must Italian students, under the numerus clausus system).

Foreign nationals who hold an academic degree may have it recognised as either partially or fully equivalent to the *laurea*, after evaluation of curricula, with exemption from certain examinations.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS.
Non-graduating students may attend *Corsi Singoli* upon approval by the *Consiglio della Facultà*.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
As provided for in exchange programmes.
Non-graduating students receive a certificate of attendance and of completion of examinations.

Credits: Problems in the conversion of points (in Italy, it is not unusual to receive maximum marks).

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
Compulsory test.

Exemptions: Applicants to the ISEF, SADFS and art schools take only the compulsory entrance examination.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:

Courses in a foreign language:
No.

Language training:
Many institutions offer language training, including the Università di Stranieri di Perugia and the Università per Stranieri di Sienna.
Centri linguistici di Ateneo.

Provision of information abroad:

Istituti Italiani di Cultura all'Estero - Dante Alighieri.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

See above. Courses are usually paid for by the Inter-university Cooperation Programme (ICP).

Possible use of a foreign language:

No.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Students register through the Italian Consulate in their home country. Applicants must choose one institution only.

After examination of their records, applicants receive a document from the Consulate indicating that they may sit the language tests and entrance examinations at their chosen institution.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. "Transfer" Students (long study visit)

Students must apply at the Italian Consulate in their home country.

Documents required:

* a copy of the secondary school leaving certificate (with a certified translation into Italian);
* proof of social security coverage (E111 form or a health insurance policy).

Students receive a certificate allowing them to enter Italy, enrol in an institution of higher education and sit the entrance examinations.

Within one week of arrival, the student must go to the local police station to register as a foreigner. The student then receives a residence permit valid until 31 December. Under the terms of Directive EEC/90/366 on students' right of residence, incorporated into Italian

law as the Decree Law of 26 November 1992, No. 470, EC students admitted to Italian universities obtain from the police a residence card (replacing the old residence permit).[1]

b. Exchange Students (short study visit)

Grant beneficiaries register directly with the institution participating in the exchange.

Documents required:

* a letter from the institution of origin attesting to the student's participation in an ERASMUS programme;
* a passport;
* E111 form or a health insurance policy.

Students receive a residence permit for the period of the exchange.

[1] Rules governing the admission of foreign students to Italian university-level institutions are revised and updated each year. Foreign students should contact the Italian Embassy in January or February of each year to receive updated information.

LUXEMBOURG

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding the qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" Students

A secondary or technical secondary school leaving certificate.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

Not applicable. Luxembourg has no full universities.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

-	1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
-	1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
-	1959 agreements on university qualifications:	NO
-	1976, 1979 UNESCO conventions:	Signed, not ratified
-	Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
-	Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	FRG

Underlined: bilateral agreements Not underlined: unilateral recognition

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: Ministry of National Education.

Applicants for university studies must hold a qualification which allows them university entry in their home country and which may be recognised as equivalent by the Luxembourg Minister of National Education.

The *Centre Universitaire* has undoubtedly concluded more agreements (100) with the universities of other Member States than any other institution. Luxembourg students have no choice but to complete their university students abroad. Luxembourg's "university course" is

only one year long.

Qualifications awarded abroad are submitted to a Recognition Committee or a Committee on Degrees, depending on the field. These Committees are under the authority of the Ministry of National Education.

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: All exchanges take place within the framework of ERASMUS.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
/

Credits: /

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None.

Exemptions: /

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
None. Courses are given in French at the *Centre Universitaire* and in French and German at the *Institut Supérieur de Technologie.*

Courses in a foreign language:
No.

Language training:
Courses in German, French, English and *Letzeburgesch* (Luxemburgish) are offered at the *Centre de Langues.*

Provision of information abroad:
No

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:
None.

Special language courses:
None.

Possible use of a foreign language:
No.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Directly with the institution.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. Study visit of less than one year

The student must obtain authorization for temporary residence from the Ministry of Justice.

Documents required:
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses;
* official indication of the purpose of the study visit.

Students are required to send a copy of this authorization to the commune where they will reside during the period of study.

b. Long Stay

This authorization may be renewed from one year to the next throughout the entire period of study.

NETHERLANDS

N.B.: From this year, higher education in the Netherlands will be governed by a new law, the WHW - *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek* (Higher Education and Research Act). This takes effect on 1 August 1993. The new law replaces some 16 laws and orders in council. For some sections of the law (eg. enrolment) transitional provisions exist.

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

The law makes no distinction between students of different nationalities with regard to entry requirements.

a. National students and EC students holding the qualification of this Member State.

Secondary school leaving certificate.

- For university: certificate of pre-university education (VWO = *Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs*).
  This certificate is awarded after 5 or 6 years of secondary study.
- For colleges of higher vocational education: certificate of pre-university education (see above), certificate of senior general secondary education (HAVO = *Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs*, 5 years), certificate of senior secondary vocational education (MBO = *Middelbaar Beroepsonderwijs*, 3 or 4 years).
- Depending on the course the student wants to follow, universities and colleges of higher education may impose subject requirements (eg. physics for the study of medicine).

b. EC "Transfer" students

- A certificate, at least equivalent to those required for national students. For practical reasons, there is a list of foreign certificates which are regarded as equivalent. Institutions may accept students with a certificate not on this list if they regard their certificate as equivalent to at least the secondary certificates mentioned above.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

The Netherlands applies numerus clausus to a certain number of courses (8 in 1993-1994).

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official agreements

-	1953 agreement on university entry:	YES
-	1956 agreement on recognition of periods of study:	YES
-	1959 agreement on university qualifications:	YES
-	1976, 1979 UNESCO conventions:	YES
-	Recognition of European Baccalaureate:	YES
-	Recognition of International Baccalaureate:	Entire recognition by the State and higher education institutions
-	Agreements on the equivalence of qualifications providing entry to universities in the following countries:	B
-	Agreements on entry during studies:	B, D
-	Agreements on recognition of final degrees:	D, B

Underlined: bilateral agreements Not underlined: unilateral agreements

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: The institutions of higher education concerned.

Official equivalence is only granted to qualifications obtained in Germany and Belgium. To determine the equivalence of other foreign qualifications, institutions may consult NUFFIC (the Netherlands Foundation for International Cooperation).

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS.
Double selection for cultural exchange programmes: by the home institution and the host institution.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Certificates provided by the institutions.

Credits: As provided for in EC exchange programmes.
More difficult for other programmes.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
Test required.

Exemptions: Students from Dutch-speaking regions or holders of certain foreign secondary education certificates which include Dutch in the examinations.

Requirements of institutions of higher education:

Courses in foreign languages:
Some courses in English.

Language training:
Most universities offer Dutch courses (during the school year and during the summer).

Provision of information abroad:
The brochure "Non-university Dutch language courses in the Netherlands", available from the Foreign Student Service in Amsterdam has a list of methods for learning Dutch at home.

Exchange programmes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:
Many ERASMUS courses are given in English.

Special language courses:
For courses given in Dutch, students are expected to have acquired a sufficient level of proficiency, either by following Dutch courses in their home country or in the Netherlands.

Possibilities for using a foreign language:
See above.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Application and registration involves a three-step process for the whole of higher education:

a. Application at the institution by the new student.
b. Verification by the administration of the institution at the Central Register of Higher Education Enrolment (CRIHO: *Centraal Register Inschrijving Hoger*

Onderwijs) that the new student is still entitled to "study time", as enrolment as a student for most studies is limited to a maximum of six years full-time study or nine years part-time.

c. Registration at the institution by the student.

N.B.: This procedure will apply for the first time to students wishing to enrol for the academic year 1993/94. Transitional provisions (in effect, the old provisions) will apply until then.

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

Upon their arrival in the Netherlands, EC students must obtain a residence permit from the local police station.

Documents required:

* passport or identity card;
* proof of enrolment in full-time study in an institution of higher education;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses for at least one year of study, or certificate of a grant or scholarship from a supranational or international organisation;
* proof of medical insurance.

PORTUGAL

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

a. *National students and EC students holding the Qualifications of this Member State* (after obtaining recognition of the equivalence of their secondary school qualifications).

For public and private education:

. Secondary school leaving certificate.
. Examinations and interviews
- general entrance examinations: *Prova de Aferiçao*;
- examinations in general subjects: *Provas especificas*;
- the student must meet prerequisites established for courses in the field of study in question. The results of these examinations yield a combination of points in the numerus clausus system.

b. *EC "Transfer" Students*

No examinations are required. A certain number of places is reserved for foreign students already enrolled in an institution of higher education if they have already successfully completed at least 50% of the subjects in the curriculum for the first two years.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

The quota for "transfer" students is normally set at 2% in all Portuguese universities.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official Agreements

-	1953 agreements on university entry:	YES
-	1956 agreements on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
-	1959 agreements on university qualifications:	YES
-	1979 UNESCO conventions:	In force, ratified
-	Recognition of the European Baccalaureate:	YES
-	Recognition of the International Baccalaureate:	partial recognition by the State
-	Agreements with the following countries on recognition of qualifications giving entry to university:	None
-	Agreements on entry to courses of study:	None
-	Agreements on the recognition of final degrees:	None

Recognition of Qualifications in Practice

Institution responsible: *Departamento de Ensino Superior - Nucleo de Acceso ao Ensino Superior* and the institution of higher education concerned.

The GCIES verifies the conformity of certificates.

The institution of higher education decides whether certain examinations are necessary to determine the level at which students should be placed. This applies to both initial entry to university and to recognition of an intermediate certificate of higher education. (The institution may decide to have students enter at a level lower than that which they had reached in their home country.)

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS or cultural exchange programmes.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
As provided for in exchange programmes.

Credits: Same as above.

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
None.

Exemptions: /

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
/

Courses in a foreign language:
A programme in English will soon be available for business studies at the Universidade Tecnica of Lisbon.

Language training:
Most universities offer Portuguese courses at very low cost (free within the framework of ERASMUS). The Universities of Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra have summer courses and ordinary or intensive courses.

Provision of information abroad:
No.

Exchange Programmes (ERASMUS, LINGUA, COMETT)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

See above.

Possible use of a foreign language:

A large majority of foreigners who study in Portugal are pursuing post-graduate level programmes. At this level, they are not required to take courses in Portuguese and may communicate with their advisers in another Community language such as French or English.

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Application is made through a central body, the *Departamento de Nucleo de Acesso ao Ensino superior.*

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

Students who wish to reside in Portugal must go to the Portuguese Consulate in their home country to:

* specify the purpose and the length of their study visit;
* specify the place where they will reside in Portugal;
* provide proof of a study grant and of the period covered by the grant;
* furnish, if they do not receive a grant, proof of sufficient financial resources to cover their studies.

For a long stay (over three months):

Students from any EC Member State except the United Kingdom must submit an application for a residence permit at least four months before departure for Portugal.

Documents required:

* a passport or identity card;
* a medical certificate;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses;
* a certificate of good conduct;

* proof of lodging in Portugal;
* official indication of the purpose of the study visit;
* identity photos.

Thanks to bilateral agreements with Portugal, students who are UK nationals are exempt from all of these requirements.

UNITED KINGDOM

1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

National students, EC students holding a qualification of this Member State and EC "Transfer" students.

Certificates of examinations (usually single subject) passed at the end of courses of secondary or further education normally required. Universities set their own requirements for admission to each course. They specify for each applicant the number of examination passes and grades by subject. Applicants may also be invited to attend an interview and/or take an aptitude test.

2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS

National authorities set quotas for courses in clinical medicine, dentistry, veterinary studies and teacher training. With respect to other courses, the level of funding accorded to each institution determines, to some extent, the number of places which may be offered. All institutions of higher education set their own admission criteria, which may be very competitive.

3 - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Official agreements

- 1953 agreement on university access:	YES
- 1956 agreement on recognition of periods of study in modern languages:	YES
- 1959 agreement on university qualifications:	YES
- 1979 UNESCO convention, in effect	ratified
- Recognition of European Baccalaureate:	YES
- Recognition of International Baccalaureate:	Partial recognition by the State and higher education institutions
- Agreements on the equivalence of diplomas providing access to universities in the following countries:	NONE
- Agreements on access during studies:	NONE
- Agreements on recognition of final degrees:	NONE

Recognition of qualifications in practice

Institution responsible: The institutions of higher education concerned, in consultation with NARIC and the British Council.

No bilateral agreements with the other Member States or unilateral recognition of qualifications.

Equivalence is granted on a case-by-case basis, according to evaluation of curricula.
The same is true for acceptance at an intermediate level of study. Automatic recognition is rare, but credit is sometimes given for previous study (or assessed work experience).

Recognition of Periods of Study and Credits in Exchange Programmes

Conditions: No equivalence required for ERASMUS.
Non-graduating students: accepted depending on the curricula.

Recognition of Periods of Study:
Certificates may be provided by institutions.

Credits: For studies under the ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme).

4 - LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

National requirements:
Test required; minimum standard determined by receiving institution.

Exemptions:

Requirements of institutions of higher education:
Highly variable. Whilst some institutions require applicants to pass the British Council IELTS test (International English Language Testing System), others have no official procedure.

Courses in foreign languages:
None

Language training:
Most universities offer language courses, but these are very expensive as they are not subsidised: ± £ 1,200 for 12 weeks (25 hours per week).

Provision of information abroad:
None

Exchange progammes (ERASMUS)

Language requirements:

Based on mutual trust; home institutions are expected to take language proficiency into account when selecting students.

Special language courses:

See above.

Possibilities for using a foreign language:

None

5 - APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR EC "TRANSFER" STUDENTS

Application is made to individual institutions through the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS), which serves as a clearing house secretariat for full-time courses leading to first degree and Higher National Diploma. Applications for part-time courses must be made direct to individual institutions. As of 1993, UCAS brings together the former Universities Central Council for Admissions and the Polytechnics and Colleges Admission System. ADAR operates as a clearing house for studio-based art and design courses except in Scotland where the Art Colleges operate a separate system. (In Scotland applications should be directed to the College of first choice.)

Admission and registration is the responsibility of individual institutions (see 1 above).

6 - IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

a. For short stays (less than six months).

No particular requirements for students from the EC.

b. For long stays.

The student must apply to the Home Office for a residence permit, which may be renewed on an annual basis.

Documents required:

* passport or identity card;
* proof of enrolment in full-time study in an institution of higher education;
* proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses.

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EURYDICE
The Education Information Network in the European Community

Educational cooperation in the Community

The education systems in the twelve EC Member States vary considerably and this variety, which is the result of historical and cultural factors, is itself a source of wealth. In order to ensure that this diversity does not become an obstacle to the free movement of people, it is essential to provide effective information on the operation and structures of the education systems. It is also vital for each country to benefit from the experience of its Community partners and thus contribute to the development of European educational cooperation.

In February 1976, the Council of the European Communities and the Ministers of Education adopted an action programme in the field of education (1) and agreed amongst other things to set up an information network. This information network, known as EURYDICE, is designed therefore to underpin educational cooperation within the European Community.

It was recognised in 1990 as the chief instrument for providing information on national and Community structures, systems and developments in the field of education (2).

Each Member State has, in accordance with its own distinctive education structures, designated at least one Unit to participate in the network and the Commission of the European Communities has set up the EURYDICE European Unit.
The functioning of EURYDICE is based on cooperation among all the Units. In addition, the European Unit coordinates and stimulates the network.

(1) Official Journal C 38, 19.2.1976, p.1.
(2) Official Journal C 329, 31.12.1990, p.23.

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